

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 1 on page 34 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 1a illustrates a general process for obtaining  $\beta$ -L-erythropentafurano nucleosides ( $\beta$ -L-dN) using L-ribose or L-xylose as a starting material. Figure 1b 1 and 1c are~~ is a non-limiting illustrative examples example according to the present invention of the synthesis of 3'- and 5'-valinyl esters of 2'-deoxy- $\beta$ -L-cytidine ( $\beta$ -L-dC) from 2'-deoxy- $\beta$ -L-cytidine, respectively.